REMARKS

Independent claims 11 and 26 are amended to include limitations similar to those of the allowed independent claims 1, 6, 16, and 21. Claim 11 is also amended to correct an inadvertent error. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 10-11, 13, 15-16, 18, 20-21, 23, 25-26, 28, and 30 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 13, and 15 are understood to be patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over "Choi" (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0227930 to Choi et al.) in view of "Poggio" (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0037154 to Poggio). The rejection is respectfully traversed because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

According to claim 11, if there is no unique identifier in the collection that has a transport identifier that matches the selected transport identifier and a network identifier that matches the network identifier of the second processor arrangement, then a new unique identifier is added to the collection. Two or more of the unique identifiers in the collection have duplicate transport identifiers and different respective ranges of TCP sequence numbers. The new unique identifier is formed from the selected transport identifier and the network identifier of the second processor arrangement. The network identifier of the second processor arrangement comprises a range of TCP sequence numbers of the data connection between the first and second processor arrangements. Thus, the new unique identifier that is added to the collection comprises the range of TCP sequence numbers and is added if there is no unique identifier in the collection. The Choi-Poggio combination neither teaches nor suggests these limitations.

Choi teaches an assignment of public and local port addresses for use with an Internet access gateway (IAG). The same public IP address is assigned to nodes in the LAN ([0042]). Choi's port translation table, e.g., Table 2, shows that the public port numbers are port numbers that are different for each PC. The local port numbers are assigned in the TCP/IP modules of the PCs ([0046]). Choi's Table 2 apparently demonstrates that unique identifiers are generated for use with the PCs and the IAG. Thus, Choi neither teaches nor suggests the claimed duplicate transport identifiers. In addition, Poggio's teachings simply state that a packet having a sequence number that

is outside an acceptable range of sequence numbers may be rejected ([0051]). Thus, Poggio also neither teaches nor suggests the claimed use of duplicate transport identifiers and different respective ranges of TCP sequence numbers.

Claims 13 and 15 depend from claim 11, and the Office Action has not shown that the limitations are suggested for at least the reasons set forth above.

The rejection of claims 11, 13, and 15 should be withdrawn because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Claims 26, 28, and 30 are understood to be patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over "Chang" (U.S. Patent No. 6,338,078 to Chang) in view of "Attanasio" (U.S. Patent. No. 5,371,852 to Attanasio) further in view of "Bal" (U.S. Patent No. 6,691,168 to Bal). The rejection is respectfully traversed because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

The claimed two or more of the unique identifiers have duplicate transport identifiers and different respective ranges of TCP sequence numbers are neither shown nor suggested by the Chang-Attanasio-Bal combination. Chang's FIG. 4 generally labels a storage area to include a destination hardware address, source hardware address, MAC header fields, destination IP address, source IP address, other IP header fields, TCP source port number, TCP destination port number, and other TCP header fields. There is no apparent indication of any duplicate transport identifiers with different respective ranges of TCP sequence numbers as claimed. Furthermore, the teachings of Attanasio and Bal do not appear to suggest these limitations.
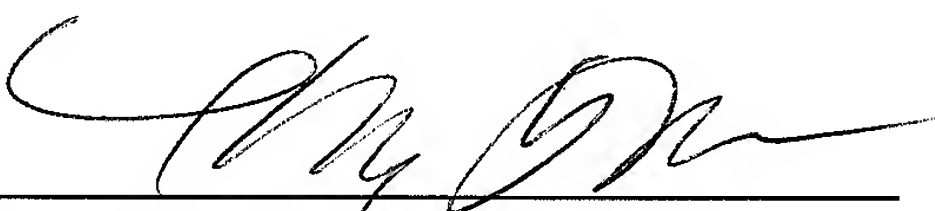
Claims 28 and 30 depend from claim 26, and the Office Action has not shown that the limitations are suggested for at least the reasons set forth above.

The rejection of claims 26, 28, and 30 should be withdrawn because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

The rejection of claims 11, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite is respectfully traversed because one skilled in the art would have recognized the inadvertent error. However, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn in view of the amendments to the claims.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested. If the examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is welcome. No extension of time is believed to be necessary for consideration of this response. However, if any extension of time is required, please consider this a petition for a sufficient number of months for consideration of this response. If there are any additional fees in connection with this response, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0996 (HPCO.126PA).

Respectfully submitted,

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